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Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.55

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.55, the General Assembly would welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the visit to the country of his Special Envoy for Myanmar (A/56/505), strongly endorse his efforts to help facilitate the national reconciliation process among all the interested parties in Myanmar, and encourage the Government of Myanmar to establish a constructive and regular dialogue with the Secretary-General in order to make better use of his good offices.

B. Activities by which the request would be implemented

2. In his report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, inter alia, called upon the international community to continue to respond to further progress in the reconciliation process in Myanmar, and indicated that the United Nations remained committed to assisting the people of Myanmar to achieve the progress and social viability in a democratic framework (A/56/505, para. 12). He also indicated that he would continue to do his utmost to assist the process of national reconciliation in Myanmar. The Secretary-General considers the role of facilitating the dialogue towards the national reconciliation in Myanmar as being one, which could be carried out effectively through his good offices.

3. Consistent with the strong endorsement contained in operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.55, the efforts of the Secretary-General would be continued in 2002 in order to build upon the progress made so far and to facilitate

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further dialogue among all interested parties in Myanmar and for national reconciliation. Those efforts would be carried out as part of the activities of his good offices through the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, and would include contacts and consultations with various interested parties in Myanmar. Exchanges of views with representatives of ethnic nationalities, the diplomatic corps, the United Nations country team and international non-governmental organizations in Myanmar would also be continued. Reports on progress would be prepared periodically.

C. Estimated resource requirements

4. The estimated cost of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General through his Special Envoy for Myanmar for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2002 amounts to $277,900 (see annex). This includes the provision of salary for the Special Envoy for Myanmar on a when-actually-employed basis; his travel to Myanmar, to neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs within its overall level of resources requested in the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003.

D. Action required by the General Assembly

5. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.55, provisions in the amount of $277,900 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2002 for the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the facilitation of the process of dialogue and national reconciliation in Myanmar.

6. These requirements would be charged against the provision of $93,691,600 for special political missions proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect.3)).

Annex

Personnel costs

1. A provision of $154,100 is required for the salaries of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (Under-Secretary-General level) for a maximum of 270 days in 2002 at rates applicable to individuals engaged on a when-actually-employed basis.

Travel

2. Provision amounting to $122,000 is also required for the travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries within the region, Europe and North America. Requirements for travel include airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for an estimated 26 trips, with each trip lasting, in average, two days.

Operating costs

3. Requirements for miscellaneous services, including telephone calls, facsimile charges and other miscellaneous services are estimated at $1,800.